

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /066 W

-----050501Z 023077 /20

R 041404Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6588

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: FINANCE MINISTER MWAI KIBAKI TO RUN FOR KANU
CHAIRMAN

REF: NAIROBI 2821

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 4, HIGHLY RESPECTED MINISTER
FOR FINANCE AND PLANNING, MWAI KIBAKI, ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION
TO RUN FOR KANU CHAIRMAN AT NATIONAL PARTY ELECTIONS
SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 3. KIBAKI'S ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BANNER
HEADLINES IN BOTH NAIROBI DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

2. UNTIL NOW KIBAKI HAS AVOIDED OPEN IDENTIFICATION WITH
EITHER OF CONTENDING GROUPS AND AT PRESS CONFERENCE HE DID
NOT SAY WHO HE SUPPORTED FOR OTHER KANU OFFICES. HE DID
SAY, SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY, THAT THE TWO REPORTED GROUPINGS
SUPPOSEDLY CONTESTING ELECTION WERE MERELY "FICTITIOUS"
CREATIONS OF THE MASS MEDIA. THIS WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT MAY
BE KIBAKI RATHER THAN GICHURU WHO MAY EMERGE AS CONSENSUS
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CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN (REFTEL). ON THE OTHER
HAND, SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT KIBAKI (A NORTHERN
KIKUYU) IS TO BE PART OF MOI SLATE, AND THAT HE FULLY
INTENDS TO RUN AGAINST MUNGAI, GICHURU OR ANY MUNGAI
ALLY WHO ENTERS THE RACE FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP.

3. WHATEVER THE RAIONALE, KIBAKI'S ENTRY INTO

KANU POLITICS IS A SALUTARY DEVELOPMENT FOR KENYA. HE
IS WIDELY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST ABLE MEN IN THE
COUNTRY. IF THE PARTY PERFORMS ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE
WHEN THE SUCCESSION EVENTUALLY TAKES PLACE, A MAN OF
KIBAKI'S STATURE AND CAPACITY IN A TOP KANU POSITION
WOULD BE A STABILIZING FACTOR.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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